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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/231,114	01/14/1999	HIROYUKI FUNAHASHI	102580	3398

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE  
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EXAMINER

KANG, PAUL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/231,114

Applicant(s)

FUNAHASHI

Examiner

Paul H Kang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolff, US Pat. No. 6,209,048 B1 in view of Danknick et al., US Pat. No. 6,021,429 and further in view of Jolissant et al., US Pat. No. 5,276,440.

3. As to claims 1, 3, 8, 11, 15, 16, and 17, 18, Wolff teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Wolff teaches a network system comprising a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and a controller controlling the terminals via the network, the controller including a selecting means for selecting one of at least two terminals, a requesting means for requesting the transmitting means of the terminal selected by the selecting means to transmit to the controller the information on...the interconnected terminal, and a switching means for switching from the selected terminal to the other or another of the at least two terminals (Wolff, col. 8, line 52 – col. 10, line 32).

However, Wolff does not explicitly teach at least two of the terminals each including an information obtaining means for automatically obtaining information on the other terminals therefrom, and a transmitting means for transmitting to the controller together with information

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on the each terminal the information obtained about the other terminals by the information obtaining means. In the same field of endeavor, Danknick teaches a method and apparatus for communicating with a network peripheral and which automatically obtains and maintains a list of device information (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the multiple device information obtaining means as taught by Danknick into the system of Wolff for the purpose of efficiently obtaining network device information.

Wolff-Danknick does not explicitly teach user designation of terminal to obtain and transmit the information. Wolff-Danknick does, however, teach providing users or system administrators to manually control the operation of the system (Danknick, col. 8, line 29 – col. 9, line 44). In the same field of endeavor, Jolissant teaches a network device information exchange system wherein the user manually requests information from the designated device (Jolissant, col. 9, lines 26-42). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the user designation of the device as taught by Jolissant, into the system of Wolff-Danknick for the purpose of increasing system control by providing the user or administrator manual control.

4. As to claims 2 and 12, Wolff-Danknick-Jolissant teach the system wherein the information on each of the other terminals includes link information for identifying the each terminal on the network (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63).

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5. As to claims 4 and 19, Wolff-Danknick-Jolissant teach the system further comprising an interface interconnecting one terminal and the network; the controller further including an interface information obtaining means for obtaining information on the interface therefrom when the one terminal transmits the information on all the terminals to the controller (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

6. As to claims 5 and 20, Wolff-Danknick-Jolissant teach a setting changing means for changing the setting or settings of the terminal transmitting the information to the controller, or of the interface (Wolff, col. 8, line 52 – col. 10, line 32).

7. As to claims 6, 9 and 13, Wolff-Danknick-Jolissant teach a memory for storing the information on all the terminals (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

8. As to claims 7, 10, 14 and 21, Wolff-Danknick-Jolissant teach a system wherein the interconnected terminals is a printer or a scanner (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Applicant argued in substance that the prior art of record does not allow a terminal to be “designated by a user.” The new grounds of rejection teaches this feature.

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Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


中国专利  
审查员

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul H Kang whose telephone number is (703) 308-6123. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 hour flex. First Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-9731 for regular communications and (703) 305-3900 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

  
Paul H Kang  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2152

February 14, 2002

MEHMET B. GECKIL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

